

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Taizé Vespers | Sunday, February 18, 2024

Welcome to Sunday Taizé Vespers at Christ Church!

For centuries, people have asked God for guidance and care as day turns to night. This night, we ask God to refresh, inspire, and call us into a deeper relationship with the Divine Spark that is in this world. Enter into God's presence through prayers, readings, songs, silence and poetry. And as you feel so moved: breathe deeply, be still, and know that you are loved.

May God bless you in this time of reflection and meditation.

TAIZÉ

Taizé (named for the ecumenical Christian community formed in Taizé, France, in 1940) is a quiet, sung, meditative prayer. The songs are short phrases that we sing repeatedly so that the words may enter our hearts. The songs may be sung in many different languages, reminding us that the Gospel is for all the world and we are all God's people.

THE PATTERN OF VESPERS

- Gathering:** God beckons us to gather, to reflect on life where we live it, and to be engaged as fully as possible in the world around us. We light candles and sing a song of thanksgiving for God's bringing light into the darkness of our lives.
- Word:** God continues to communicate through words of wisdom, encouragement, hope, and challenge spoken throughout the ages by God's beloved children.
- Psalms:** Psalms are the Bible's language of prayer and praise. They provide us language to speak about all of life, including our joys, disappointments, confusion and anger, sadness, and concern for ourselves, others, and this world.
- Meditation:** When we listen and pray while gathered in community, we are reminded that we are not alone. We also affirm that life is not about "just me," but about participating in a larger movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
- Prayers:** Prayer is honest, holy conversation with God and those who gather. God invites our honesty, joys, sorrows, confusion, anger, and wonder. Prayer practices can open us up to deeper understanding and meaningful spiritual connections with God, others, and ourselves.
- Going Out:** As we leave the Vesper service, we are reminded of Christ's peace, presence and purpose in all of life.

Gathering Song | Adoramus Te Domine (We Adore You, O Lord)

A

A - do - ra - mus te, A - do - ra - mus - te, Do - mi - ne - (hum)

Officiant: God dwells in you.

People: And also in you.

Officiant: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*

Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love, that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

Song | Bless the Lord, My Soul

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Confession is a stripping away of protection, the telling of a truth which might once have seemed like a humiliation, become suddenly a gateway, an entrance to solid ground; even a first step home. To confess is to free oneself, not only by admitting a sin or an omission but to profess a deeper allegiance, a greater dedication to something beyond the mere threat of immediate punishment or the desolation of being shunned. To confess is to declare oneself ready for a more courageous road, one in which a previously defended identity might not only be shorn away, but be seen to be irrelevant, a distraction, a working delusion that kept us busy over the years and held us unaccountable to the real question.

Freedom from deception may be the goal but no confession is without consequences. Our fears about the result of confessing are well grounded; the old identity the secret was protecting almost never survives the revelation. We begin the new life in isolation; perhaps indeed shunned by those we have wronged or even by those unable to understand our need to tell. Confession implicitly calls for carrying on the journey newly alone, unaccompanied by the familiar company we have kept until now.

Deathbed confessions happen so frequently because in the light of our imminent demise and disappearance, preserving the old fearful identity that kept the secret is seen to be absurd, almost laughable, we are suddenly not the thing we have been defending all along. In the shadow of our disappearance we come to understand that the preservation of our name and our identity have taken enormous effort and willpower to sustain for a mere temporary and provisional sense of personhood. In leaving the stasis of secrecy we must commit to a new fidelity – and fluidity – a river flow of arrival – and not just on a temporary basis while the revelation is new, but shaped around a different life that calls for a deeper discipline.

Confession, therefore is not passive; is not the simple ability to face up to past wrongs – an active dynamic is foundational to the original meaning. In the early Christian tradition *Confession* meant the avowal and declaration of one's religion, to confess was to discover what one believed to be true by speaking it out loud before witnesses – often unsympathetic – to confess, was to enter an axis of vulnerability and visibility and sometimes to place oneself at the mercy of those who did not fully understand us in our struggle.

Declaring a new dispensation by confession we see our trespasses against others in a new light, initiated by something we were hiding, not only from the world but from ourselves. Holding the secret was not only a dense against punishment but also a holding back from a next courageous step. To separate the confusion of punishment with revelation we first of all confess to ourselves, step onto solid ground in the privacy and spaciousness of our own hearts and minds and then translate it into the best speech we have to represent it in the world, and by doing so attempt to meld two previously irreconcilable worlds. To confess is to integrate the offending with the offended, inside and out.

To confess is not only to acknowledge a truth we have held from ourselves all along, breathing quietly, alone and in secret what we could not initially give a voice, but a hopeful dedication to a larger power that might make us powerless to commit the selfsame sin again.

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Psalm 103 | *Benedic, anima mea*

Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgives all your sin
and heals all your infirmities,

Who saves your life from the pit
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness,

Who satisfies you with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness and judgment
for all those who are oppressed with wrong.

He showed his ways to Moses,
his works to the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
long-suffering and of great goodness.

He will not always chide us,
neither will he keep his anger forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy also toward those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.

As a father pities his own children,
so is the Lord merciful to those who fear him.

For he knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

The days of man are as grass;
he flourishes as a flower of the field.

For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures forever and ever upon those who fear him,
and his righteousness upon children's children,

Even upon those who keep his covenant
and think upon his commandments to do them.

The Lord has prepared his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.

O praise the Lord, you angels of his;

you that excel in strength,
you that fulfill his commandment;
and hearken unto the voice of his words.

O praise the Lord, all you his hosts,
you servants of his that do his pleasure.

O speak good of the Lord, all you works of his;
in all places of his do minion;
praise the Lord, O my soul.

Song | In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re - joice! Look to God, do not be a -
fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near." The score includes triplets and a final double bar line.

Scripture Reading | 1 Corinthians 1:17-31

Reader: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

continued

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Homily/Reflection | Greg Schuckmann, *Lay Preacher*

Silent Meditation |

Announcements |

Offertory Song | O Lord, Hear my Prayer

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in G major and 4/4 time. The first system contains the first line of the song, and the second system contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

Poems | by Pamela Pruitt

Calvary

Jesus knew
What
Awaited Him
As He
Carried
That Cross
To Calvary,

But,
It carried
Each
Of our names
On it,

And,
He wanted
To touch
Them
For all
Eternity.



Prayers of the People |

With all the faithful, let us pray to the Lord, who is our hiding place in times of trouble, who surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for all who are hungry—whether hungry for power and glory or hungry for a simple meal. Show the mighty that you alone can satisfy their deepest need, and feed the poor from the abundance of your good creation. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for the church in times of trial—whether tested by tempestuous change or tempted by safety of the status quo. Give us peace when anger and fear threaten to divide us, and challenge us when we are too comfortable in this world. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

We pray for leaders in high places—whether determined to help those who suffer or distant from the cries of the oppressed. Open their eyes to see your saving power at work, and open their ears to hear your prophets' calls for justice. **Lord, hear our prayers.**

Lord God, instruct us in the way we should go and let your steadfast love surround us always; in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. **Amen.****

Officiant: The coming night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives be dispelled in this hour. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. **Amen.**



Ostinato Refrain

Nunc di - mīt - tis ser - vum tu - um, Dó - mi -
Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O

ne, Lord, se - cún - dum ver - bum
Lord, now go in peace ac -

ne, Dó - mi - ne, pa - ce.
Lord, O Lord, word.

tu - um in pa - ce, Dó - mi - ne. Nunc di -
cord - ing to your word, to your word. Let your

Last time

Last time

Thank you for joining us today!

PARISH CALENDAR • FEBRUARY 18 TO FEBRUARY 24

Sunday, February 18

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:30 am	Breakfast – New Brick, lower level
8:45 – 9:30 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
9:00 am	Family Service – New Brick, upper level
9:30 – 10:15 am	Sunday School – Parish Hall & New Brick, lower levels
9:30 – 10:30 am	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
9:30 – 10:30 am	Sunday Circle – Old Brick
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:00 pm	After Death Movie Screening – New Brick, lower level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:30 – 4:30 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference room
2:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom
6:00 – 10:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Taizé Vespers – New Brick, upper level

Monday, February 19 – President’s Day – Church Office Closed

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, February 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	300 yr History Committee Meeting – Zoom
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:15 – 8:45 pm	Theology on Tap – Frisco and the Reckless Shepherd, Columbia

Wednesday, February 21

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Bible Study – Parish Hall, conference room
6:30 pm	Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, lower level
6:30 pm	Youth Lenten Group – Old Brick
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, February 22

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Home School – New Brick, lower level
12:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, February 23

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, February 24

10:00 am – 11:00 am	WOCC Labyrinth Walk – St. John's, Ellicott City
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Ministerio Embajadores M.E.J. – Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements for publication,
email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website.

Adult Forum: Sunday Circle

Lent is a period where we prepare ourselves with prayer, fasting, repentance, spiritual discipline, and self-denial. During the 2024 season of Lent, Sunday Circle will explore addiction in its many forms, and how "*Addiction is a spiritual disease; a disease of the soul, an illness resulting from longing, frustrated desire and a deep dissatisfaction, which is, ironically, the necessary beginning of any spiritual path.*"~Richard Rohr. From shopping and social media to drugs and alcohol, addiction takes many forms and no one among us hasn't been affected - directly or indirectly - by addiction. We will explore how we can take inventory of ourselves and better manage these shortcomings.

Lenten Taizé Vespers - Sunday Evening

Each Sunday during Lent at 6 p.m., Christ Church offers a service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France. This community promotes peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Our Taizé Vespers service mirrors Taizé-style attention to silence, holy words, prayer, and singing, and offers a chance to meditate and reflect on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way. Gather with us in the New Brick Sanctuary for this very special Sunday service.

The 2024 Lenten Meditation Booklet

Our 2024 Lenten Meditation Booklet is available for you to take your copy home. Many thanks to Ellen Hoke for her efficient and dedicated work in getting this to us all in such a short amount of time. The LMB also has the Lenten Daily Office readings for each day during the season, as well as an outline of our services. You can find copies in both the New Brick Narthex and in Old Brick.

Bible Study and Lunch - Wednesday Mornings

Christ Church's weekly Bible Study and Lunch gathering takes this week off in observance of Ash Wednesday, but you can find the readings for next Sunday [here](#). We will pick things up on Wednesday, February 21st. Each week, we will meet in the Conference Room in the Parish House, explore the Lectionary readings for that Sunday, and then have lunch together at a local restaurant. Wednesday Bible Study will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by the Christ Church clergy and/or postulants.

Lenten Healing Eucharist - Thursdays

Each Thursday during Lent, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick. This service includes readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and non-parishioners are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel - the oldest such building still in regular use in Howard County.

We're Happy to Have (and Hear) You, Ola!

Our Music Ministry is excited to welcome Ola Oladipupo to the team as our Assistant Organist. Ola has generously given his time and talents to Christ Church, playing organ postludes and accompanying hymns on many Sundays. We are glad to officially recognize his contributions to the Music Ministry at Christ Church!

Christ Church Choir - Thursday Evenings

Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick and everyone is welcome to take part. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs! If you're interested, please email Larissa at music@christchurchcolumbia.org

CEC Book Club - Fridays

It's never the wrong time to join Christ Church's Book Club, especially since we have just begun a new book - and one on an element of Maryland history - *Madness: Race and Insanity in a Jim Crow Asylum* by Antonia Hylton. It's about Crownsville State Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in southern Maryland (presently out of commission). We are always welcoming new people into our group, so if reading and exchanging shared experiences sounds fun to you, log in and join us! **The Zoom link is here**, the Meeting ID is **817 9855 4366**, and the Password is **CECBooks**. Email Ellen Hoke at bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Health Ministry Request

The Christ Church Health Ministry would appreciate it if you'd fill out a short questionnaire we've made, one that will help teach us what to focus on. **You can find the form here**, and it only takes a minute to complete. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Diane Phillips LaGuerre or Bunmi Daramaja, or email health@christchurchcolumbia.org.

WOCC February News

On Saturday, February 24th, we will be meeting at **St. John's Episcopal Church** for a Lenten Labyrinth Walk. We will be meeting there at 11:00 a.m. Afterward, we are planning to have lunch together, hopefully at Touche Touchet Café in ElkrIDGE. Please feel free to join us, and click the above link for Google Maps information. We are also continuing with our collection of scarves, hats, and gloves for the Seafarers, and will be accepting donations until March 15th. The collection bin labeled "Seafarers" is located on the table in the Tower Room by the Narthex. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting items, patterns can be found at the following link: <https://seamenschurch.org/programs-services/christmas-at-sea/patterns-publications>. And finally, our next meeting is on Monday, March 4th at 1:30 p.m. at New Brick and on Zoom.

Men of Christ Church News

Friday, March 1st, we will have our next Bowling Night Out at Bowlero, 7100 Carved Stone in Columbia. We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. for this event. We also have our current *Random Act of Kindness* activity - creating gift bags for new fathers at Howard County General Hospital. You can find the list of items still needed on our website's blog post - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/mocc-february-news. If you would like to help or have any questions, please email MOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org

Healing Stations

Christ Church now has healing stations during the 10:30 Eucharist at the back of the sanctuary. If you need prayer, we invite you to visit the healing station after receiving Communion. We also welcome those of you who wish to help, so if you are interested in joining a group of parishioners who offer healing prayer, email Rebecca Warlow at healingministry@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming Sunday, you can do so by using our **Realm Online Giving Form**; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* dropdown menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. Then please email or call the church office and let them know, and we'll be sure to place an acknowledgment in the Sunday service leaflet for that day.

Bridges to Housing Stability Launches County-Supported Program to Secure Homes for Families of Homeless HCPSS Students

For several years, Christ Church has supported **Bridges to Housing Stability** in its efforts to help individuals and families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Now Bridges has expanded its work in collaboration with Howard County and the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). On Feb. 5, Bridges began taking applications for the **Family Home Start Program** to help HCPSS students and their families. There were 431 students experiencing homelessness at the time Bridges posted **its January newsletter** describing the new effort. It will provide security deposit guarantees and the first month's rent, housing search resources, and short-term case management.

Bridges wrote, "In October, we were thrilled to attend the County Executive's announcement of the **Housing Opportunities Meant for Everyone** (HOME) package, which includes a \$1 million grant for Bridges to rehouse Howard County Public School students and their families experiencing homelessness. Since then, we've been hiring program staff and working with the school system and the Department of Housing and Community Development on the partnership and rollout of the program."

HCPSS determines students are homeless if their families lack "a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." Examples range from sharing a home to living in a car. Eligible households can earn between 40 and 60 percent of the county's median income. In "The Ball Bulletin" on Feb. 12, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball said, "This essential program is a commitment from our county to provide not just temporary relief, but a foundation for long-term stability." Bridges has a track record of helping county residents achieve stable housing: it prevented 22 evictions, rehoused 68 households, served 468 individuals, and provided 54 affordable rental homes in a recent 12-month period.

To support these wider efforts and to have fun at the same time, mark your calendars. Bridges will hold its **Beans & Bags** event on Sunday, May 5, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Centennial Park, Pavilion H, 4760 Woodland Rd., Ellicott City 21042. Last year, Christ Church was a supporter of the Bridges chili event and cornhole tournament, which was held in March. But we had no team to enter the cornhole competition. Let's change that in 2024. Start practicing now so that Christ Church can make a showing! The event raises crucial operating funds. Christ Church has been a supporter of Bridges since participating in a countywide chili cook-off in 2019. At a Chili & Challenge virtual fundraiser in 2020, Christ Church won a Silver Ladle Award. Then, at the 2021 Chili & Challenge, **we won gold**. The relationship began at the urging of parishioner Jim Collins, who was honored among Bridges' "Heroes for Housing" in 2022.

“More Than Hope” Event: a Celebration of Local Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Our own Howard County is so rich in our diverse cultures and traditions. Join us in especially celebrating those brought to us by immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers during a festive evening of dance, music, food, and brief talks on Sunday, February 25th beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center. Naimatullah Ahmadzai, an Afghan refugee and the father of one of the families helped by Christ Church's Refugee Ministry, is a featured speaker. All event proceeds benefit Luminus, the local non-profit group (formerly called FIRN) that helps immigrants and refugees here in Howard County. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For more information, please see the More Than Hope flier at tinyurl.com/CEC-MoreThanHope and come to the Owen Brown Interfaith Center on the 25th - **7246 Cradlerock Way in Columbia.**

DreamBuilders Registration for the Triple Blitz Build

Registration is now open for Triple Blitz Build in Hazard, Kentucky, taking place from June 16-22. After a successful trip last summer building two houses for those in need, we are headed back to Hazard, Kentucky this June to make an even bigger impact! If you would like to make a life-long impact on three flood-impacted families, come join us for this week-long trip. No experience necessary - we'll teach you everything you need to know, and you'll have a fun and rewarding experience. The total cost is \$700. and you must have completed 9th grade to join us. Registration is open until March 4th, and we can only take 36 people, so act now! You can register at dreambuildersmd.org. Questions? Speak with Cathy Gold or Stacey Frith, or email info@christchurchcolumbia.org.

In general, if you have suggestions about ways to help the community, if you want to get involved, or if you need assistance, please email Christ Church Outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.



You can read the latest Vestry-approved report for December 2023 [here](#).

Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables our parish to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness. Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving.

Stewardship 2024

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can complete one electronically on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/2024-pledge

Text Giving

You can give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply send a text with the word **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

Online Giving

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing toward your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our [overview page](#) for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEB. 21:

THE RT. REV. EUGENE TAYLOR SUTTON

FEB. 28:

THE REV. EARL MULLINS

MARCH 6:

THE REV. RICHARD GINNEVER

MARCH 13:

THE REV. BARBARA SERAS

MARCH 20:

THE REV. EMMANUEL ATO MERCER



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Jonah Aribiah (*Youth Liaison*)

Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams